

1881.]

ACT No. XXVI OF 1881.¹

[9th December, 1881.]

An Act to define and amend the law relating to Promissory Notes, Bills of Exchange and Cheques.

[As modified up to 1st August, 1897.]

WHEREAS it is expedient to define and amend the law relating to promissory notes, bills of exchange and cheques; It is hereby enacted as follows:—

CHAPTER I.

PRELIMINARY.

1. This Act may be called the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881: Short title.

It extends to the whole of British India; but nothing herein contained affects the Indian Paper Currency Act, 1882, section 25² or affects any local usage relating to any instrument in an oriental language: Provided that such usages may be excluded by any words in the body of the instrument which indicate an intention that the legal relations of the parties thereto shall be governed by this Act; and it shall come into force on the first day of March, 1882. Local extent. Saving of usages relating to hundis, etc.
Commencement.

XX of 1882.

2. [Repeal

¹For the Statement of Objects and Reasons for the Bill which was passed into law as Act XXVI of 1881, see *Gazette of India*, 1887, p. 1336; for the Reports of the Select Committee, see *ibid.*, 1877, Pt. V, p. 321; 1878, Pt. V, p. 145; 1879, Pt. V, p. 75; 1881, Pt. V, p. 85; for discussions on the Bill, see *ibid.*, 1867, Supplement, p. 1031; 1881, Supplement, p. 1409.

This Act has been declared in force in the Town of Mandalay—See the Upper Burma Laws Act, 1886 (XX of 1886), s. 6, and second schedule, Second Part. It has also been extended under the Scheduled Districts Act, 1874, (XIV of 1874), to the whole of Upper Burma, see *Burma Gazette*, 1893, Pt. I, p. 154.

For summary procedure on Negotiable Instruments, see the Code of Civil Procedure, 1882 (Act XIV of 1882), Ch. XXXIX. For Act XIV of 1892, see the revised edition as modified up to 15th December, 1893, published by the Legislative Department.

²This reference has been substituted for the original reference by Act XX of 1882, s. 2. (For Act XX of 1892, see the revised edition, as modified up to 27th June, 1893, published by the Legislative Department.)

*(Chapter I.—Preliminary.—Secs. 2-3. Chapter II.—
Of Notes, Bills and Cheques.—Secs. 4-5.)*

2. [*Repeal of enactments.*] Repealed by the
Repealing and Amending Act, 1891 (XII of 1891).

3. In this Act—

“banker” includes also persons or a corporation
or company acting as bankers: and

“notary public” includes also any person ap-
pointed by the Governor General in Council to per-
form the functions of a notary public under this Act.

Interpret
tion-clau

CHAPTER II.

OF NOTES, BILLS AND CHEQUES.

“Promissory
note,”

4. A “promissory note” is an instrument in
writing (not being a banknote or a currency-note)
containing an unconditional undertaking, signed by
the maker, to pay a certain sum of money only to,
or to the order of, a certain person, or to the bearer
of the instrument.

Illustrations.

A signs instruments in the following terms :

- (a) “I promise to pay B or order Rs. 500.”
- (b) “I acknowledge myself to be indebted to B in Rs. 1,000,
to be paid on demand, for value received.”
- (c) “Mr. B, I O U Rs. 1,000.”
- (d) “I promise to pay B Rs. 500 and all other sums which
shall be due to him.”
- (e) “I promise to pay B Rs. 500, first deducting thereout
any money which he may owe me.”
- (f) “I promise to pay B Rs. 500 seven days after my
marriage with C.”
- (g) “I promise to pay B Rs. 500 on D’s death, provided D
leaves me enough to pay that sum.”
- (h) “I promise to pay B Rs. 500 and to deliver to him my
black horse on 1st January next.”

The instruments respectively marked (a) and (b) are pro-
missory notes. The instruments respectively marked (c), (d),
(e), (f), (g) and (h) are not promissory notes.

“Bill of ex-
change.”

5. A “bill of exchange” is an instrument in writ-
ing containing an unconditional order, signed by the
maker

(Chapter II.—Of Notes, Bills and Cheques.—Secs. 6-7.)

maker, directing a certain person to pay a certain sum of money only to, or to the order of, a certain person or to the bearer of the instrument.

A promise or order to pay is not "conditional," within the meaning of this section and section 4, by reason of the time for payment of the amount or any instalment thereof being expressed to be on the lapse of a certain period after the occurrence of a specified event which, according to the ordinary expectation of mankind, is certain to happen, although the time of its happening may be uncertain.

The sum payable may be "certain," within the meaning of this section and section 4, although it includes future interest or is payable at an indicated rate of exchange, or is according to the course of exchange, and although the instrument provides that, on default of payment of an instalment, the balance unpaid shall become due.

The person to whom it is clear that the direction is given or that payment is to be made may be a "certain person," within the meaning of this section and section 4, although he is mis-named or designated by description only.

6. A "cheque" is a bill of exchange drawn on a "Cheque," specified banker and not expressed to be payable otherwise than on demand.

7. The maker of a bill of exchange or cheque is called the "drawer;" the person thereby directed to pay is called "the drawee."

When in the bill or in any indorsement thereon the name of any person is given in addition to the drawee to be resorted to in case of need, such person is called a "drawee in case of need."

After the drawee of a bill has signed his assent upon the bill, or, if there are more parts thereof than one, upon one of such parts, and delivered the same or given notice of such signing to the holder or to some person on his behalf, he is called the "acceptor."

[When

(Chapter II.—Of Notes, Bills and Cheques.—Secs. 8-11.)

"Acceptor for honour."

[When a bill of exchange has been noted or protested for non-acceptance or for better security]¹ and any person accepts it *supra protest* for honour of the drawer or of any one of the indorsers, such person is called an "acceptor for honour."

"Payee."

The person named in the instrument, to whom or to whose order the money is by the instrument directed to be paid, is called the "payee."

"Holder."

8. The "holder" of a promissory note, bill of exchange or cheque means any person entitled in his own name to the possession thereof and to receive or recover the amount due thereon from the parties thereto.

Where the note, bill or cheque is lost or destroyed, its holder is the person so entitled at the time of such loss or destruction.

"Holder in due course."

9. "Holder in due course" means any person who for consideration became the possessor of a promissory note, bill of exchange or cheque if payable to bearer, or the payee or indorsee thereof, if payable to, or to the order of, a payee,

before the amount mentioned in it became payable, and without having sufficient cause to believe that any defect existed in the title of the person from whom he derived his title.

"Payment in due course."

10. "Payment in due course" means payment in accordance with the apparent tenor of the instrument in good faith and without negligence to any person in possession thereof under circumstances which do not afford a reasonable ground for believing that he is not entitled to receive payment of the amount therein mentioned.

Inland instrument.

11. A promissory note, bill of exchange or cheque drawn

¹ These words were substituted for the words "When acceptance is refused and the bill is protested for non-acceptance," by the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1885 (II of 1885), s. 2.

• (Chapter II.—Of Notes, Bills and Cheques.—Secs. 12-18.)

drawn or made in British India, and made payable in, or drawn upon any person resident in, British India, shall be deemed to be an inland instrument.

12. Any such instrument not so drawn, made or made payable shall be deemed to be a foreign instrument. Foreign instrument.

13. A "negotiable instrument" means a promissory note, bill of exchange or cheque expressed to be payable to a specified person, or his order, or to the order of a specified person, or to the bearer thereof, or to a specified person or the bearer thereof. "Negotiable instrument."

14. When a promissory note, bill of exchange or cheque is transferred to any person, so as to constitute that person the holder thereof, the instrument is said to be negotiated. Negotiation.

15.¹ When the maker or holder of a negotiable instrument signs the same, otherwise than as such maker, for the purpose of negotiation, on the back or face thereof or on a slip of paper annexed thereto, or so signs for the same purpose a stamped paper intended to be completed as a negotiable instrument, he is said to indorse the same, and is called the "indorser." Indorsement.

16. If the indorser signs his name only, the indorsement is said to be "in blank," and if he adds a direction to pay the amount mentioned in the instrument to, or to the order of, a specified person, the indorsement is said to be "in full;" and the person so specified is called the "indorsee" of the instrument. Indorsement
"in blank"
and "in full."
"Indorsee."

17. Where an instrument may be construed either as a promissory note or bill of exchange, the holder may at his election treat it as either, and the instrument shall be thenceforward treated accordingly. Ambiguous instruments.

18. If the amount undertaken or ordered to be paid is stated differently in figures and in words, the amount stated in words shall be the amount undertaken or ordered to be paid. Where amount is stated differently in figures and words.

19. A

¹ For an exception to s. 15 in the case of Government Securities, see the Indian Securities Act, 1886 (XIII of 1886), s. 6.

(Chapter II.—Of Notes, Bills and Cheques.—Secs. 19-23.)

Instruments payable on demand.

19. A promissory note or bill of exchange, in which no time for payment is specified, and a cheque, are payable on demand.

Inchoate stamped instruments.

20. Where one person signs and delivers to another a paper stamped in accordance with the law relating to negotiable instruments then in force in British India, and either wholly blank or having written thereon an incomplete negotiable instrument, he thereby gives *prima facie* authority to the holder thereof to make or complete, as the case may be, upon it a negotiable instrument, for any amount specified therein and not exceeding the amount covered by the stamp. The person so signing shall be liable upon such instrument, in the capacity in which he signed the same, to any holder in due course for such amount: Provided that no person other than a holder in due course shall recover from the person delivering the instrument anything in excess of the amount intended by him to be paid thereunder.

"At sight."
"On presentment."
"After sight."

21. In a promissory note or bill of exchange the expressions "at sight" and "on presentment" mean on demand. The expression "after sight" means, in a promissory note, after presentment for sight, and, in a bill of exchange, after acceptance, or noting for non-acceptance, or protest for non-acceptance.

"Maturity."

22. The maturity of a promissory note or bill of exchange is the date at which it falls due.

Days of grace.

Every promissory note or bill of exchange which is not expressed to be payable on demand, at sight or on presentment is at maturity on the third day after the day on which it is expressed to be payable.

Calculating maturity of bill or note payable so many months after date or sight.

23. In calculating the date at which a promissory note or bill of exchange, made payable a stated number of months after date or after sight, or after a certain event, is at maturity, the period stated shall be held to terminate on the day of the month which corresponds

(Chapter II.—Of Notes, Bills and Cheques.—Secs. 24-25.)

corresponds with the day on which the instrument is dated, or presented for acceptance or sight, or noted for non-acceptance, or protested for non-acceptance, or the event happens, or, where the instrument is a bill of exchange made payable a stated number of months after sight and has been accepted for honour, with the day on which it was so accepted. If the month in which the period would terminate has no corresponding day, the period shall be held to terminate on the last day of such month.

Illustrations.

(a) A negotiable instrument, dated 29th January, 1878, is made payable at one month after date. The instrument is at maturity on the third day after the 28th February, 1878.

(b) A negotiable instrument, dated 30th August, 1878, is made payable three months after date. The instrument is at maturity on the 3rd December, 1878.

(c) A promissory note or bill of exchange, dated 31st August, 1878, is made payable three months after date. The instrument is at maturity on the 3rd December, 1878.

24. In calculating the date at which a promissory note or bill of exchange made payable a certain number of days after date or after sight or after a certain event is at maturity, the day of the date, or of presentment for acceptance or sight, or of protest for non-acceptance, or on which the event happens, shall be excluded. Calculating maturity of bill or note payable so many days after date or sight.

25. When the day on which a promissory note or bill of exchange is at maturity is a public holiday, the instrument shall be deemed to be due on the next preceding business day. When day of maturity is a holiday.

Explanation.—The expression “public holiday” includes Sundays, New Year’s day, Christmas day: if either of such days falls on a Sunday, the next following Monday: Good Friday; and any other day declared by the Local Government, by notification in the Official Gazette, to be a public holiday.

CHAPTER III.

(Chapter III.—Parties to Notes, Bills and Cheques.
—Secs. 26-29.)

CHAPTER III.

PARTIES TO NOTES, BILLS AND CHEQUES.

Capacity to
make, &c.,
promissory
notes, &c.

26. Every person capable of contracting, according to the law to which he is subject, may bind himself and be bound by the making, drawing, acceptance, indorsement, delivery and negotiation of a promissory note, bill of exchange or cheque.

Minor.

A minor may draw, indorse, deliver and negotiate such instrument so as to bind all parties except himself.

Nothing herein contained shall be deemed to empower a corporation to make, indorse or accept such instruments except in cases in which, under the law for the time being in force, they are so empowered.

Agency.

27. Every person capable of binding himself or of being bound, as mentioned in section 26, may so bind himself or be bound by a duly authorized agent acting in his name.

A general authority to transact business and to receive and discharge debts does not confer upon an agent the power of accepting or indorsing bills of exchange so as to bind his principal.

An authority to draw bills of exchange does not of itself import an authority to indorse.

Liability of
agent sign-
ing.

28. An agent who signs his name to a promissory note, bill of exchange or cheque without indicating thereon that he signs as agent, or that he does not intend thereby to incur personal responsibility, is liable personally on the instrument, except to those who induced him to sign upon the belief that the principal only would be held liable.

Liability of
legal repre-
sentative
signing.

29. A legal representative of a deceased person who signs his name to a promissory note, bill of exchange or cheque is liable personally thereon unless he expressly limits his liability to the extent of the assets received by him as such.

30. The

(Chapter III.—Parties to Notes; Bills and Cheques.
—Secs. 30-35.)

30. The drawer of a bill of exchange or cheque is bound, in case of dishonour by the drawee or acceptor thereof, to compensate the holder, provided due notice of dishonour has been given to, or received by, the drawer as hereinafter provided. Liability of drawer.

31. The drawee of a cheque having sufficient funds of the drawer in his hands, properly applicable to the payment of such cheque must pay the cheque when duly required so to do, and, in default of such payment, must compensate the drawer for any loss or damage caused by such default. Liability of drawee of cheque.

32. In the absence of a contract to the contrary, the maker of a promissory note and the acceptor before maturity of a bill of exchange are bound to pay the amount thereof at maturity according to the apparent tenor of the note or acceptance respectively, and the acceptor of the bill of exchange at or after maturity is bound to pay the amount thereof to the holder on demand. Liability of maker of note and acceptor of bill.

In default of such payment as aforesaid, such maker or acceptor is bound to compensate any party to the note or bill for any loss or damage sustained by him and caused by such default.

33. No person except the drawee of a bill of exchange, or all or some of several drawees, or a person named therein as a drawee in case of need, or an acceptor for honour, can bind himself by an acceptance. Only drawee can be acceptor except in case of need or for honour.

34. Where there are several drawees of a bill of exchange who are not partners, each of them can accept it for himself, but none of them can accept it for another without his authority. Acceptance by several drawees not partners.

35. In the absence of a contract to the contrary, whoever indorses and delivers a negotiable instrument before maturity, without, in such indorsement, expressly excluding or making conditional his own liability, is bound thereby to every subsequent holder, in Liability of indorser.

*(Chapter III.—Parties to Notes, Bills and Cheques.
—Secs. 36-39.)*

case of dishonour by the drawee, acceptor or maker to compensate such holder for any loss or damage caused to him by such dishonour, provided due notice of dishonour has been given to, or received by, such indorser as hereinafter provided.

Every indorser after dishonour is liable as upon an instrument payable on demand.

Liability of
prior parties
to holder in
due course.

36. Every prior party to a negotiable instrument is liable thereon to a holder in due course until the instrument is duly satisfied.

Maker, draw-
er and ac-
ceptor prin-
cipals.

37. The maker of a promissory note or cheque, the drawer of a bill of exchange until acceptance, and the acceptor are, in the absence of a contract to the contrary, respectively liable thereon as principal debtors, and the other parties thereto are liable thereon as sureties for the maker, drawer or acceptor, as the case may be.

Prior party
a principal
in respect of
each subse-
quent party.

38. As between the parties so liable as sureties, each prior party is, in the absence of a contract to the contrary, also liable thereon as a principal debtor in respect of each subsequent party.

Illustration.

A draws a bill payable to his own order on B, who accepts. A afterwards indorses the bill to C, C to D, and D to E. As between E and B, B is the principal debtor, and A, C and D are his sureties. As between E and A, A is the principal debtor, and C and D are his sureties. As between E and C, C is the principal debtor and D is his surety.

Suretyship.

39. When the holder of an accepted bill of exchange enters into any contract with the acceptor which, under section 134 or 135 of the Indian Contract Act, 1872,¹ would discharge the other parties, the holder may expressly reserve his right to charge the other parties, and in such case they are not discharged.

IX of 1872.

40. Where

¹ For Act IX of 1872, see the revised edition as modified up to 1st May, 1896, published by the Legislative Department.

(Chapter III.—Parties to Notes, Bills and Cheques.
—Secs. 40-43.)

40. Where the holder of a negotiable instrument, without the consent of the indorser, destroys or impairs the indorser's remedy against a prior party, the indorser is discharged from liability to the holder to the same extent as if the instrument had been paid at maturity.

Discharge of
indorser's
liability.

Illustration.

A is the holder of a bill of exchange made payable to the order of B, which contains the following indorsements in blank:—

First indorsement, "B."

Second indorsement, "Peter Williams."

Third indorsement, "Wright & Co."

Fourth indorsement, "John Rozario."

This bill A puts in suit against John Rozario and strikes out, without John Rozario's consent, the indorsements by Peter Williams and Wright & Co. A is not entitled to recover anything from John Rozario.

41. An acceptor of a bill of exchange already indorsed is not relieved from liability by reason that such indorsement is forged, if he knew or had reason to believe the indorsement to be forged when he accepted the bill.

Acceptor
bound al-
though in-
dorsement
forged.

42. An acceptor of a bill of exchange drawn in a fictitious name and payable to the drawer's order is not, by reason that such name is fictitious, relieved from liability to any holder in due course claiming under an indorsement by the same hand as the drawer's signature, and purporting to be made by the drawer.

Acceptance of
bill drawn in
fictitious
name.

43. A negotiable instrument made, drawn, accepted, indorsed or transferred without consideration, or for a consideration which fails, creates no obligation of payment between the parties to the transaction. But if any such party has transferred the instrument with or without indorsement to a holder for consideration, such holder, and every subsequent holder deriving title from him, may recover the amount due on such instrument from the transferor for consideration or any prior party thereto.

Negotiable
instrument
made, etc.,
without con-
sideration.

Exception I.

(Chapter III.—Parties to Notes, Bills and Cheques.
—Secs. 44-45.)

Exception I.—No party for whose accommodation a negotiable instrument has been made, drawn, accepted or indorsed can, if he have paid the amount thereof, recover thereon such amount from any person who became a party to such instrument for his accommodation.

Exception II.—No party to the instrument who has induced any other party to make, draw, accept, indorse or transfer the same to him for a consideration which he has failed to pay or perform in full shall recover thereon an amount exceeding the value of the consideration (if any) which he has actually paid or performed.

Partial
absence or
failure of
money con-
sideration.

44. When the consideration for which a person signed a promissory note, bill of exchange or cheque consisted of money, and was originally absent in part or has subsequently failed in part, the sum which a holder standing in immediate relation with such signer is entitled to receive from him is proportionally reduced.

Explanation.—The drawer of a bill of exchange stands in immediate relation with the acceptor. The maker of a promissory note, bill of exchange or cheque stands in immediate relation with the payee, and the indorser with his indorsee. Other signers may by agreement stand in immediate relation with a holder.

Illustration.

A draws a bill on B for Rs. 500 payable to the order of A. B accepts the bill, but subsequently dishonours it by non-payment. A sues B on the bill. B proves that it was accepted for value as to Rs. 400, and as an accommodation to the plaintiff as to the residue. A can only recover Rs. 400.

Partial
failure of
consideration
not consist-
ing of money.

45. Where a part of the consideration for which a person signed a promissory note, bill of exchange or cheque, though not consisting of money, is ascertainable in money without collateral enquiry, and there has been a failure of that part, the sum which a holder standing in immediate relation with such signer

(Chapter III.—Parties to Notes, Bills and Cheques.—
Sec. 45 A. Chapter IV.—Of Negotiation.—
Sec. 46.)

signer is entitled to receive from him is proportionally reduced.

[¹ 45 A. Where a bill of exchange has been lost before it is over-due, the person who was the holder of it may apply to the drawer to give him another bill of the same tenor, giving security to the drawer, if required, to indemnify him against all persons whatever in case the bill alleged to have been lost shall be found again. Holder's right to duplicate of lost bill.]

If the drawer on request as aforesaid refuses to give such duplicate bill, he may be compelled to do so.]

CHAPTER IV. OF NEGOTIATION.

46. The making, acceptance or indorsement of a promissory note, bill of exchange or cheque is completed by delivery, actual or constructive. Delivery.

As between parties standing in immediate relation delivery to be effectual must be made by the party making, accepting or indorsing the instrument, or by a person authorized by him in that behalf.

As between such parties and any holder of the instrument other than a holder in due course, it may be shown that the instrument was delivered conditionally or for a special purpose only, and not for the purpose of transferring absolutely the property therein.

A promissory note, bill of exchange or cheque payable to bearer is negotiable by the delivery thereof.

A promissory note, bill of exchange or cheque payable to order is negotiable by the holder by indorsement and delivery thereof.

47. Subject

¹ S. 45 A was inserted by the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1895 (II of 1895),

(Chapter IV.—Of Negotiation.—Secs. 47-50.)

Negotiation by
delivery.

47. Subject to the provisions of section 58, a promissory note, bill of exchange or cheque payable to bearer is negotiable by delivery thereof.

Exception.—A promissory note, bill of exchange or cheque delivered on condition that it is not to take effect except in a certain event is not negotiable (except in the hands of a holder for value without notice of the condition) unless such event happens.

Illustrations.

(a) A, the holder of a negotiable instrument payable to bearer, delivers it to B's agent to keep for B. The instrument has been negotiated.

(b) A, the holder of a negotiable instrument payable to bearer, which is in the hands of A's banker, who is at the time the banker of B, directs the banker to transfer the instrument to B's credit in the banker's account with B. The banker does so, and accordingly now possesses the instrument as B's agent. The instrument has been negotiated, and B has become the holder of it.

Negotiation
by indorse-
ment.

48. Subject to the provisions of section 58, a promissory note, bill of exchange or cheque payable to the order of a specified person, or to a specified person or order, is negotiable by the holder by indorsement and delivery thereof.

Conversion of
indorsement
in blank into
indorsement
in full.

49. The holder of a negotiable instrument indorsed in blank may, without signing his own name, by writing above the indorser's signature a direction to pay to any other person as indorsee, convert the indorsement in blank into an indorsement in full; and the holder does not thereby incur the responsibility of an indorser.

Effect of
indorsement.

50. The indorsement of a negotiable instrument followed by delivery transfers to the indorsee the property therein with the right of further negotiation; but the indorsement may, by express words, restrict or exclude such right, or may merely constitute the indorsee an agent to indorse the instrument, or to receive

• (Chapter IV.—Of Negotiation.—Secs. 51-52.)

receive its contents for the indorser, or for some other specified person.

Illustrations.

B signs the following indorsements on different negotiable instruments payable to bearer:—

- (a) "Pay the contents to C only."
- (b) "Pay C for my use."
- (c) "Pay C or order for the account of B."
- (d) "The within must be credited to C."

These indorsements exclude the right of further negotiation by C.

- (e) "Pay C."
- (f) "Pay C value in account with the Oriental Bank."
- (g) "Pay the contents to C, being part of the consideration in a certain deed of assignment executed by C to the indorser and others."

These indorsements do not exclude the right of further negotiation by C.

51. Every sole maker, drawer, payee or indorsee, Who may or all of several joint makers, drawers, payees or indorsees, of a negotiable instrument may, if the negotiability of such instrument has not been restricted or excluded as mentioned in section 50, indorse and negotiate the same. negotiate.

Explanation.—Nothing in this section enables a maker or drawer to indorse or negotiate an instrument, unless he is in lawful possession or is holder thereof; or enables a payee or indorsee to indorse or negotiate an instrument, unless he is holder thereof.

Illustration.

A bill is drawn payable to A or order. A indorses it to B, the indorsement not containing the words "or order" or any equivalent words. B may negotiate the instrument.

52. The indorser of a negotiable instrument may, by express words in the indorsement, exclude his own liability thereon, or make such liability or the right of the indorsee to receive the amount due thereon conditional. Indorser who excludes his own liability or makes it conditional.

depend

(Chapter IV.—Of Negotiation.—Secs. 53-57.)

depend upon the happening of a specified event, although such event may never happen.

Where an indorser so excludes his liability and afterwards becomes the holder of the instrument, all intermediate indorsers are liable to him. •

Illustrations.

(a) The indorser of a negotiable instrument signs his name, adding the words—

“Without recourse.”

Upon this indorsement he incurs no liability.

(b) A is the payee and holder of a negotiable instrument. Excluding personal liability by an indorsement “without recourse,” he transfers the instrument to B, and B indorses it to C, who indorses it to A. A is not only reinstated in his former rights, but has the rights of an indorsee against B and C.

Holder deriving title from holder in due course.

53. A holder of a negotiable instrument who derives title from a holder in due course has the rights thereon of that holder in due course.

Instrument indorsed in blank.

54. Subject to the provisions hereinafter contained as to crossed cheques, a negotiable instrument indorsed in blank is payable to the bearer thereof even although originally payable to order.

Conversion of indorsement in blank into indorsement in full.

55. If a negotiable instrument, after having been indorsed in blank is indorsed in full, the amount of it cannot be claimed from the indorser in full, except by the person to whom it has been indorsed in full, or by one who derives title through such person.

Indorsement for part of sum due.

56. No writing on a negotiable instrument is valid for the purpose of negotiation if such writing purports to transfer only a part of the amount appearing to be due on the instrument; but, where such amount has been partly paid, a note to that effect may be indorsed on the instrument, which may then be negotiated for the balance.

Legal representative cannot by delivery only negotiate

57. The legal representative of a deceased person cannot negotiate by delivery only a promissory note, bill

(Chapter IV.—Of Negotiation.—Secs. 58-60.)

bill of exchange or cheque payable to order and indorsed by the deceased but not delivered.

instrument indorsed by deceased.

58. When a negotiable instrument has been lost or has been obtained from any maker, acceptor or holder thereof by means of an offence or fraud, or for an unlawful consideration, no possessor or indorsee who claims through the person who found or so obtained the instrument is entitled to receive the amount due thereon from such maker, acceptor or holder, or from any party, prior to such holder, unless such possessor or indorsee is, or some person through whom he claims was, a holder thereof in due course.

Instrument obtained by unlawful means or for unlawful consideration.

59. The holder of a negotiable instrument, who has acquired it after dishonour, whether by non-acceptance or non-payment, with notice thereof, or after maturity, has only, as against the other parties, the rights thereon of his transferor :

Instrument acquired after dishonour or when overdue.

Provided that any person who, in good faith and for consideration, becomes the holder, after maturity, of a promissory note or bill of exchange made, drawn or accepted without consideration, for the purpose of enabling some party thereto to raise money thereon, may recover the amount of the note or bill from any prior party.

Accommodation note or bill.

Illustration.

The acceptor of a bill of exchange, when he accepted it, deposited with the drawer certain goods as a collateral security for the payment of the bill, with power to the drawer to sell the goods and apply the proceeds in discharge of the bill if it were not paid at maturity. The bill not having been paid at maturity, the drawer sold the goods and retained the proceeds but indorsed the bill to A. A's title is subject to the same objection as the drawer's title.

60. A negotiable instrument may be negotiated (except by the maker, drawee or acceptor after maturity) until payment or satisfaction thereof by the maker, drawee or acceptor at or after maturity, but not after such payment or satisfaction.

Instrument negotiable till payment or satisfaction.

CHAPTER V.

CHAPTER V.

OF PRESENTMENT.

Presentment
for accept-
ance.

61. A bill of exchange payable after sight must, if no time or place is specified therein for presentment, be presented to the drawee thereof for acceptance, if he can, after reasonable search, be found, by a person entitled to demand acceptance, within a reasonable time after it is drawn, and in business hours on a business day. In default of such presentment, no party thereto is liable thereon to the person making such default.

If the drawee cannot, after reasonable search, be found, the bill is dishonoured.

If the bill is directed to the drawee at a particular place, it must be presented at that place; and, if at the due date for presentment he cannot, after reasonable search, be found there, the bill is dishonoured.

[¹ Where authorised by agreement or usage, a presentment through the post office by means of a registered letter is sufficient.]

Presentment
of promissory
note for sight.

62. A promissory note, payable at a certain period after sight, must be presented to the maker thereof for sight (if he can, after reasonable search, be found) by a person entitled to demand payment, within a reasonable time after it is made and in business hours on a business day. In default of such presentment, no party thereto is liable thereon to the person making such default.

Drawee's
time for
deliberation.

63. The holder must, if so required by the drawee of a bill of exchange presented to him for acceptance, allow the drawee twenty-four hours (exclusive of public holidays) to consider whether he will accept it.

Presentment
for payment.

64. Promissory notes, bills of exchange and cheques must be presented for payment to the maker, acceptor

¹ This paragraph was added by the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1885 (II of 1885), s. 4.

(Chapter V.—Of Presentment.—Secs. 65-71.)

acceptor or drawee thereof respectively, by or on behalf of the holder as hereinafter provided. In default of such presentment, the other parties thereto are not liable thereon to such holder.

[¹ Where authorized by agreement or usage, a presentment through the post office by means of a registered letter is sufficient.]

Exception.—Where a promissory note is payable on demand and is not payable at a specified place, no presentment is necessary in order to charge the maker thereof.

65. Presentment for payment must be made during the usual hours of business, and, if at a banker's, within banking hours. Hours for presentment.

66. A promissory note or bill of exchange made payable at a specified period after date or sight thereof, must be presented for payment at maturity. Presentment for payment of instrument payable after date or sight.

67. A promissory note payable by instalments must be presented for payment on the third day after the date fixed for payment of each instalment; and non-payment of such presentment has the same effect as non-payment of a note at maturity. Presentment for payment of promissory note payable by instalments.

68. A promissory note, bill of exchange or cheque made, drawn or accepted payable at a specified place and not elsewhere must, in order to charge any party thereto, be presented for payment at that place. Presentment for payment of instrument payable at specified place and not elsewhere.

69. A promissory note or bill of exchange, made, drawn or accepted payable at a specified place must, in order to charge the maker or drawer thereof, be presented for payment at that place. Instrument payable at specified place.

70. A promissory note or bill of exchange not made payable as mentioned in sections 68 and 69, must be presented for payment at the place of business (if any), or at the usual residence, of the maker, drawee or acceptor thereof, as the case may be. Presentment where no exclusive place specified.

71. If the maker, drawee or acceptor of a negotiable instrument has no known place of business or fixed Presentment when maker, &c., has no fixed

¹ This paragraph was added by the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1885 (II of 1885), s. 4.

(Chapter V.—Of Presentment.—Secs. 72-76).

known place
of business
or residence.

fixed residence, and no place is specified in the instrument for presentment for acceptance or payment, such presentment may be made to him in person wherever he can be found.

Presentment
of cheque
to charge
drawer.

72. [¹ Subject to the provisions of section 84,] a cheque must, in order to charge the drawer, be presented at the bank upon which it is drawn before the relation between the drawer and his banker has been altered to the prejudice of the drawer.

Presentment
of cheque to
charge any
other person.

73. A cheque must, in order to charge any person except the drawer, be presented within a reasonable time after delivery thereof by such person.

Presentment
of instrument
payable on
demand.

74. Subject to the provisions of section 31, a negotiable instrument payable on demand must be presented for payment within a reasonable time after it is received by the holder.

Presentment
by or to
agent repre-
sentative of
deceased or
assignee of
insolvent.

75. Presentment for acceptance or payment may be made to the duly authorized agent of the drawee, maker or acceptor, as the case may be, or, where the drawee, maker or acceptor has died, to his legal representative, or, where he has been declared an insolvent, to his assignee.

When pre-
sentment
unnecessary.

76. No presentment for payment is necessary, and the instrument is dishonoured at the due date for presentment, in any of the following cases :—

(a) if the maker, drawee or acceptor intentionally prevents the presentment of the instrument; or,

if the instrument being payable at his place of business, he closes such place on a business day during the usual business hours, or,

if the instrument being payable at some other specified place, neither he nor any person authorized to pay it attends at such place during the usual business hours, or,

if the instrument not being payable at any specified place, he cannot after due search be found ;

(b) as

¹ These words and figures were inserted by the Negotiable Instruments Act Amendment Act, 1897 (VI of 1897), s. 2.

(Chapter V.—Of Presentment.—Sec. 77. Chapter VI.—Of Payment and Interest.—Secs. 78-80.)

(b) as against any party sought to be charged therewith, if he has engaged to pay notwithstanding non-presentment;

(c) as against any party if, after maturity, with knowledge that the instrument has not been presented—

he makes a part payment on account of the amount due on the instrument,

or promises to pay the amount due thereon in whole or in part,

or otherwise waives his right to take advantage of any default in presentment for payment;

(d) as against the drawer, if the drawer could not suffer damage from the want of such presentment.

77. When a bill of exchange accepted payable at a specified bank, has been duly presented there for payment and dishonoured, if the banker so negligently or improperly keeps, deals with or delivers back such bill as to cause loss to the holder, he must compensate the holder for such loss.

Liability of banker for negligently dealing with bill presented for payment.

CHAPTER VI.

OF PAYMENT AND INTEREST.

78. Subject to the provisions of section 82, clause (c), payment of the amount due on a promissory note, bill of exchange or cheque must, in order to discharge the maker or acceptor, be made to the holder of the instrument.

To whom payment should be made.

79. When interest at a specified rate is expressly made payable on a promissory note or bill of exchange, interest shall be calculated at the rate specified, on the amount of the principal money due thereon, from the date of the instrument, until tender or realization of such amount, or until such date after the institution of a suit to recover such amount as the Court directs.

Interest when rate specified.

80. When no rate of interest is specified in the instrument, interest on the amount due thereon shall, except

Interest when no rate specified.

(Chapter VI.—Of Payment and Interest.—Sec. 81. Chapter VII.—Of Discharge from Liability on Notes, Bills and Cheques.—Sec. 82.)

except in cases provided for by the Code of Civil Pro- XIV of 1882.
cedure, section 532, ¹ be calculated at the rate of six per centum per annum, from the date at which the same ought to have been paid by the party charged, until tender or realization of the amount due thereon, or until such date after the institution of a suit to recover such amount as the Court directs.

Explanation.—When the party charged is the indorser of an instrument dishonoured by non-payment, he is liable to pay interest only from the time that he receives notice of the dishonour.

Delivery of instrument on payment or indemnity in case of loss.

81. Any person liable to pay, and called upon by the holder thereof to pay, the amount due on a promissory note, bill of exchange or cheque is before payment entitled to have it shown, and is on payment entitled to have it delivered up, to him, or, if the instrument is lost or cannot be produced to be indemnified against any further claim thereon against him.

CHAPTER VII.

OF DISCHARGE FROM LIABILITY ON NOTES, BILLS AND CHEQUES.

Discharge from liability—

82. The maker, acceptor or indorser respectively of a negotiable instrument is discharged from liability thereon—

by cancellation ;

(a) to a holder thereof who cancels such acceptor's or indorser's name with intent to discharge him, and to all parties claiming under such holder ;

by release ;

(b) to a holder thereof who otherwise discharges such maker, acceptor or indorser, and to all parties

¹ For Act XIV of 1882 see the revised edition, as modified up to 15th December, 1888, published by the Legislative Department.

(Chapter VII.—Of Discharge from Liability on Notes, Bills and Cheques.—Secs. 83-84.)

- parties deriving title under such holder after notice of such discharge;
- (c) to all parties thereto, if the instrument is payable to bearer, or has been indorsed in blank, and such maker, acceptor or indorser makes payment in due course of the amount due thereon.

83. If the holder of a bill of exchange allows the drawee more than twenty-four hours, exclusive of public holidays, to consider whether he will accept the same, all previous parties not consenting to such allowance are thereby discharged from liability to such holder.

Discharge by allowing drawee more than twenty-four hours to accept.

84. ¹(1) Where a cheque is not presented for payment within a reasonable time of its issue, and the drawer or person on whose account it is drawn had the right, at the time when presentment ought to have been made, as between himself and the banker, to have the cheque paid and suffers actual damage through the delay, he is discharged to the extent of such damage, that is to say, to the extent to which such drawer or person is a creditor of the banker to a larger amount than he would have been if such cheque had been paid.

When cheque not duly presented and drawer damaged thereby.

(2) In determining what is a reasonable time, regard shall be had to the nature of the instrument, the usage of trade and of bankers, and the facts of the particular case.

(3) The holder of the cheque as to which such drawer or person is so discharged shall be a creditor, in lieu of such drawer or person, of such banker to the extent of such discharge and entitled to recover the amount from him.

Illustrations.

¹ This Section was substituted for the original S. 84 by the Negotiable Instruments Act Amendment Act, 1897 (VI of 1897), s. 3.

The wording of the original section was as follows—"When the holder of a cheque fails to present it for payment within a reasonable time, and the drawer thereof sustains loss or damage from such failure, he is discharged from liability to the holder."

(Chapter VII.—Of Discharge from Liability on Notes, Bills and Cheques.—Secs. 85-86.)

Illustrations.

(a) A draws a cheque for Rs. 1,000, and, when the cheque ought to be presented, has funds at the bank to meet it. The bank fails before the cheque is presented. The drawer is discharged, but the holder can prove against the bank for the amount of the cheque.

(b) A draws a cheque at Umballa on a bank in Calcutta. The bank fails before the cheque could be presented in ordinary course. A is not discharged, for he has not suffered actual damage through any delay in presenting the cheque.

Cheque payable to order.

85. Where a cheque payable to order purports to be indorsed by or on behalf of the payee, the drawee is discharged by payment in due course.

Parties not consenting discharged by qualified or limited acceptance.

86. If the holder of a bill of exchange acquiesces in a qualified acceptance, or one limited to part of the sum mentioned in the bill, or which substitutes a different place or time for payment, or which, where the drawees are not partners, is not signed by all the drawees, all previous parties whose consent is not obtained to such acceptance are discharged as against the holder and those claiming under him, unless on notice given by the holder they assent to such acceptance.

Explanation.—An acceptance is qualified—

- (a) where it is conditional, declaring the payment to be dependent on the happening of an event therein stated;
- (b) where it undertakes the payment of part only of the sum ordered to be paid;
- (c) where, no place of payment being specified on the order, it undertakes the payment at a specified place, and not otherwise or elsewhere; or where, a place of payment being specified in the order, it undertakes the payment at some other place and not otherwise or elsewhere;
- (d) where it undertakes the payment at a time other than that at which under the order it would be legally due.

87. Any

(Chapter VII.—Of Discharge from Liability on Notes, Bills and Cheques.—Secs. 87-90.)

87. Any material alteration of a negotiable instrument renders the same void as against any one who is a party thereto at the time of making such alteration and does not consent thereto, unless it was made in order to carry out the common intention of the original parties ;

Effect of material alteration.

and any such alteration, if made by an indorsee, discharges his indorser from all liability to him in respect of the consideration thereof.

Alteration by indorsee.

The provisions of this section are subject to those of sections 20, 49, 86 and 125.

88. An acceptor or indorser of a negotiable instrument is bound by his acceptance or indorsement notwithstanding any previous alteration of the instrument.

Acceptor or indorser bound notwithstanding previous alteration.

89. Where a promissory note, bill of exchange or cheque has been materially altered but does not appear to have been so altered,

Payment of instrument on which alteration is not apparent.

or where a cheque is presented for payment which does not at the time of presentation appear to be crossed or to have had a crossing which has been obliterated,

payment thereof by a person or banker liable to pay, and paying the same according to the apparent tenor thereof at the time of payment and otherwise in due course, shall discharge such person or banker from all liability thereon; and such payment shall not be questioned by reason of the instrument having been altered or the cheque crossed.

90. If a bill of exchange which has been negotiated is, at or after maturity, held by the acceptor in his own right, all rights of action thereon are extinguished.

Extinguishment of rights of action on bill in acceptor's hands.

CHAPTER VIII.

(Chapter VIII.—Of Notice of Dishonour.—Secs. 91-94.)

CHAPTER VIII.

OF NOTICE OF DISHONOUR. • •

Dishonour by
non-accept-
ance.

91. A bill of exchange is said to be dishonoured by non-acceptance when the drawee, or one of several drawees not being partners, makes default in acceptance upon being duly required to accept the bill, or where presentment is excused and the bill is not accepted.

Where the drawee is incompetent to contract, or the acceptance is qualified, the bill may be treated as dishonoured.

Dishonour by
non-pay-
ment.

92. A promissory note, bill of exchange or cheque is said to be dishonoured by non-payment when the maker of the note, acceptor of the bill or drawee of the cheque makes default in payment upon being duly required to pay the same.

By and to
whom notice
should be
given.

93. When a promissory note, bill of exchange or cheque is dishonoured by non-acceptance or non-payment, the holder thereof, or some party thereto who remains liable thereon, must give notice that the instrument has been so dishonoured to all other parties whom the holder seeks to make severally liable thereon, and to some one of several parties whom he seeks to make jointly liable thereon.

Nothing in this section renders it necessary to give notice to the maker of the dishonoured promissory note or the drawee or acceptor of the dishonoured bill of exchange or cheque.

Mode in
which notice
may be
given.

94. Notice of dishonour may be given to a duly authorised agent of the person to whom it is required to be given, or, where he has died, to his legal representative, or, where he has been declared an insolvent, to his assignee; may be oral or written; may, if written, be sent by post; and may be in any form; but it must inform the party to whom it is given, either in express terms or by reasonable intendment,

that

• (Chapter VIII.—Of Notice of Dishonour.—Secs. 95-98.)

that the instrument has been dishonoured, and in what way, and that he will be held liable thereon; and it must be given within a reasonable time after dishonour, at the place of business or (in case such party has no place of business) at the residence of the party for whom it is intended.

If the notice is duly directed and sent by post and miscarries, such miscarriage does not render the notice invalid.

95. Any party receiving notice of dishonour must, in order to render any prior party liable to himself, give notice of dishonour to such party within a reasonable time, unless such party otherwise receives due notice as provided by section 93.

Party receiving must transmit notice of dishonour.

96. When the instrument is deposited with an agent for presentment, the agent is entitled to the same time to give notice to his principal as if he were the holder giving notice of dishonour, and the principal is entitled to a further like period to give notice of dishonour.

Agent for presentment.

97. When the party to whom notice of dishonour is despatched is dead, but the party despatching the notice is ignorant of his death, the notice is sufficient.

When party to whom notice given is dead.

98. No notice of dishonour is necessary—

When notice of dishonour is unnecessary.

- (a) when it is dispensed with by the party entitled thereto;
- (b) in order to charge the drawer when he has countermanded payment;
- (c) when the party charged could not suffer damage for want of notice;
- (d) when the party entitled to notice cannot after due search be found; or the party bound to give notice is, for any other reason, unable without any fault of his own to give it;
- (e) to charge the drawers when the acceptor is also a drawer;

(f) in

(Chapter IX.—Of Noting and Protest.—Secs. 99-101.)

- (f) in the case of a promissory note which is not negotiable;
- (g) when the party entitled to notice, knowing the facts, promises unconditionally to pay the amount due on the instrument.

CHAPTER IX.

OF NOTING AND PROTEST.

Noting.

99. When a promissory note or bill of exchange has been dishonoured by non-acceptance or non-payment, the holder may cause such dishonour to be noted by a notary public upon the instrument, or upon a paper attached thereto, or partly upon each.

Such note must be made within a reasonable time after dishonour, and must specify the date of dishonour, the reasons, if any, assigned for such dishonour, or, if the instrument has not been expressly dishonoured, the reason why the holder treats it as dishonoured, and the notary's charges.

Protest.

100. When a promissory note or bill of exchange has been dishonoured by non-acceptance or non-payment, the holder may, within a reasonable time, cause such dishonour to be noted and certified by a notary public. Such certificate is called a protest.

Protest for better security.

When the acceptor of a bill of exchange has become insolvent, or his credit has been publicly impeached, before the maturity of the bill, the holder may, within a reasonable time cause a notary public to demand better security of the acceptor, and on its being refused may, within a reasonable time, cause such facts to be noted and certified as aforesaid. Such certificate is called a protest for better security.

Contents of protest.

101. A protest under section 100 must contain—

- (a) either the instrument itself, or a literal transcript of the instrument and of everything written or printed thereupon;

(b) the

(Chapter IX.—Of Noting and Protest.—Secs. 102-103.)

- (b) the name of the person for whom and against whom the instrument has been protested;
- (c) a statement that payment or acceptance, or better security, as the case may be, has been demanded of such person by the notary public; the terms of his answer, if any, or a statement that he gave no answer, or that he could not be found;
- (d) when the note or bill has been dishonoured, the place and time of dishonour, and, when better security has been refused, the place and time of refusal;
- (e) the subscription of the notary public making the protest;
- (f) in the event of an acceptance for honour or of a payment for honour, the name of the person by whom, of the person for whom, and the manner in which, such acceptance or payment was offered and effected.

¹[A notary public may make the demand mentioned in clause (c) of this section either in person or by his clerk or, where authorized by agreement or usage, by registered letter.]

102. When a promissory note or bill of exchange is required by law to be protested, notice of such protest must be given instead of notice of dishonour, in the same manner and subject to the same conditions; but the notice may be given by the notary public who makes the protest.

103. All bills of exchange drawn payable at some other place than the place mentioned as the residence of the drawee, and which are dishonoured by non-acceptance, may, without further presentment to the drawee, be protested for non-payment in the place specified for payment, unless paid before or at maturity.

104. Foreign

¹ This paragraph was added by the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1885 (II of 1885), s. 5.

(Chapter IX.—Of Noting and Protest—Sec. 104.
Chapter X.—Of Reasonable time.—Secs. 105-107).

Protest of foreign bills. 104. Foreign bills of exchange must be protested for dishonour when such protest is required by the law of the place where they are drawn.

When noting equivalent to protest. [104 A. For the purposes of this Act, where a bill or note is required to be protested within a specified time or before some further proceeding is taken, it is sufficient that the bill has been noted for protest before the expiration of the specified time or the taking of the proceeding; and the formal protest may be extended at any time thereafter as of the date of the noting.]

CHAPTER X.

OF REASONABLE TIME.

Reasonable time. 105. In determining what is a reasonable time for presentment for acceptance or payment, for giving notice of dishonour and for noting, regard shall be had to the nature of the instrument and the usual course of dealing with respect to similar instruments; and, in calculating such time, public holidays shall be excluded.

Reasonable time of giving notice of dishonour. 106. If the holder and the party to whom notice of dishonour is given carry on business or live (as the case may be) in different places, such notice is given within a reasonable time if it is despatched by the next post or on the day next after the day of dishonour.

If the said parties carry on business or live in the same place, such notice is given within a reasonable time if it is despatched in time to reach its destination on the day next after the day of dishonour.

Reasonable time for transmitting such notice. 107. A party receiving notice of dishonour, who seeks to enforce his right against a prior party, transmits the notice within a reasonable time if he transmits

¹ S. 104 A was inserted by the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1885 (II of 1885), s. 6.

(Chapter XI.—Of Acceptance and Payment for Honour and Reference in Case of Need.—Secs. 108-111.)

mits it within the same time after its receipt as he would have had to give notice if he had been the holder. • •

CHAPTER XI.

OF ACCEPTANCE AND PAYMENT FOR HONOUR AND REFERENCE IN CASE OF NEED.

108. When a bill of exchange has been noted or protested for non-acceptance or for better security, any person not being a party already liable thereon may, with the consent of the holder, by writing on the bill, accept the same for the honour of any party thereto.¹ * * * * *

Acceptance for honour.

109. A person desiring to accept for honour must, [² by writing on the bill under his hand] declare that he accepts under protest the protested bill for the honour of the drawer or of a particular indorser whom he names, or generally for honour.³ * * *

How acceptance for honour must be made.

110. Where the acceptance does not express for whose honour it is made, it shall be deemed to be made for the honour of the drawer.

Acceptance not specifying for whose honour it is made.

111. An acceptor for honour binds himself to all parties subsequent to the party for whose honour he accepts to pay the amount of the bill if the drawee do not: and such party and all prior parties are liable in their respective capacities to compensate the acceptor for honour for all loss or damage sustained by him in consequence of such acceptance.

Liability of acceptor for honour.

But

¹ Portion repealed by the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1885 (II of 1885), s. 7, has been omitted. That portion was as follows:—

“Unless the person who intends to accept *supra protest* first declares, in the presence of a notary, that he does it for honour and has such declaration duly recorded in the notarial register at the time, his acceptance shall be a nullity.”

² These words were substituted for the words “in the presence of a notary public subscribe the bill with his own hand and” by the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1885 (II of 1885), s. 8.

³ The words “and such declaration must be recorded by the notary in his register,” were repealed by the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1885 (II of 1885), s. 8.

(Chapter XI.—Of Acceptance and Payment for Honour and Reference in Case of Need.—Secs. 112-116. Chapter XII.—Of Compensation.—Sec. 117.)

But an acceptor for honour is not liable to the holder of the bill unless it is presented (or in case the address given by such acceptor on the bill is a place other than the place where the bill is made payable), forwarded for presentment, not later than the day next after the day of its maturity.

When accept-
or for honour
may be
charged.

112. An acceptor for honour cannot be charged unless the bill has at its maturity been presented to the drawee for payment, and has been dishonoured by him, and noted or protested for such dishonour.

Payment for
honour.

113. When a bill of exchange has been noted or protested for non-payment, any person may pay the same for the honour of any party liable to pay the same, provided that the person so paying¹ or his agent in that behalf] has previously declared before a notary public the party for whose honour he pays, and that such declaration has been recorded by such notary public.

Right of
payer for
honour.

114. Any person so paying is entitled to all the rights, in respect of the bill, of the holder at the time of such payment, and may recover from the party for whose honour he pays all sums so paid, with interest thereon and with all expenses properly incurred in making such payment.

Drawee in
case of need.

115. Where a drawee in case of need is named in a bill of exchange, or in any indorsement thereon, the bill is not dishonoured until it has been dishonoured by such drawee.

Acceptance
and payment
without pro-
test.

116. A drawee in case of need may accept and pay the bill of exchange without previous protest.

CHAPTER XII. OF COMPENSATION.

Rules as to
compensation.

117. The compensation payable in case of dishonour

¹ These words were inserted by the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1885 (II of 1885), s. 9.

(Chapter XII.—Of Compensation.—Sec. 117.)

honour of a promissory note, bill of exchange or cheque, by any party liable to the holder or any indorsee shall (except in cases provided for by the XIV of 1882. Code of Civil Procedure, section 532)¹ be determined by the following rules :—

- (a) the holder is entitled to the amount due upon the instrument, together with the expenses properly incurred in presenting, noting and protesting it ;
- (b) when the person charged resides at a place different from that at which the instrument was payable, the holder is entitled to receive such sum at the current rate of exchange between the two places ;
- (c) an indorser who, being liable, has paid the amount due on the same is entitled to the amount so paid with interest at six per centum per annum from the date of payment until tender or realization thereof, together with all expenses caused by the dishonour and payment ;
- (d) when the person charged and such indorser reside at different places, the indorser is entitled to receive such sum at the current rate of exchange between the two places ;
- (e) the party entitled to compensation may draw a bill upon the party liable to compensate him, payable at sight or on demand, for the amount due to him, together with all expenses properly incurred by him. Such bill must be accompanied by the instrument dishonoured and the protest thereof (if any). If such bill is dishonoured, the party dishonouring the same is liable to make compensation thereof in the same manner as in the case of the original bill.

CHAPTER XIII.

¹ For Act XIV of 1882 see the revised edition, as modified up to 15th December, 1888, published by the Legislative Department.

(Chapter XIII.—*Special Rules of Evidence.*—Secs. 118-119.)

CHAPTER XIII.

SPECIAL RULES OF EVIDENCE.

Presump-
tions as to
negotiable
instruments—
of consider-
ation;

118. Until the contrary is proved, the following presumptions shall be made;

as to date;

as to time of
acceptance;

as to time of
transfer;

as to order
of indorse-
ment;

as to stamp;

that holder
is a holder in
due course.

(a) that every negotiable instrument was made or drawn for consideration, and that every such instrument, when it has been accepted, indorsed, negotiated or transferred, was accepted, indorsed, negotiated or transferred for consideration;

(b) that every negotiable instrument bearing a date was made or drawn on such date;

(c) that every accepted bill of exchange was accepted within a reasonable time after its date and before its maturity;

(d) that every transfer of a negotiable instrument was made before its maturity;

(e) that the indorsements appearing upon a negotiable instrument were made in the order in which they appear thereon;

(f) that a lost promissory note, bill of exchange or cheque was duly stamped;

(g) that the holder of a negotiable instrument is a holder in due course: Provided that, where the instrument has been obtained from its lawful owner, or from any person in lawful custody thereof, by means of an offence or fraud, or has been obtained from the maker or acceptor thereof by means of an offence or fraud, or for unlawful consideration the burthen of proving that the holder is a holder in due course lies upon him.

Presumption
on proof of
protest.

119. In a suit upon an instrument which has been dishonoured, the Court shall, on proof of the protest, presume the fact of dishonour, unless and until such fact is disproved.

120.. No

(Chapter XIII.—*Special Rules of Evidence.*—Secs. 120-122. Chapter XIV.—*Of Crossed Cheques.*—Secs. 123-125.)

120. No maker of a promissory note, and no drawer of a bill of exchange or cheque, and no acceptor of a bill of exchange for the honour of the drawer shall, in a suit thereon by a holder in due course, be permitted to deny the validity of the instrument as originally made or drawn.

Estoppel against denying original validity of instrument.

121. No maker of a promissory note and no acceptor of a bill of exchange payable to, or to the order of, a specified person shall, in a suit thereon by a holder in due course, be permitted to deny the payee's capacity, at the date of the note or bill, to indorse the same.

Estoppel against denying capacity of payee to indorse.

122. No indorser of a negotiable instrument shall, in a suit thereon by a subsequent holder, be permitted to deny the signature or capacity to contract of any prior party to the instrument.

Estoppel against denying signature or capacity of prior party.

CHAPTER XIV.

OF CROSSED CHEQUES.

123. Where a cheque bears across its face an addition of the words "and company" or any abbreviation thereof, between two parallel transverse lines, or of two parallel transverse lines simply, either with or without the words "not negotiable," that addition shall be deemed a crossing, and the cheque shall be deemed to be crossed generally.

Cheque crossed generally.

124. Where a cheque bears across its face an addition of the name of a banker, either with or without the words "not negotiable," that addition shall be deemed a crossing, and the cheque shall be deemed to be crossed specially, and to be crossed to that banker.

Cheque crossed specially.

125. Where a cheque is uncrossed, the holder may cross it generally or specially.

Crossing after issue.

Where a cheque is crossed generally, the holder may cross it specially.

Where

(Chapter XIV.—Of Crossed Cheques.—Secs.
126-130.)

Where a cheque is crossed generally or specially, the holder may add the words "not negotiable."

Where a cheque is crossed specially, the banker to whom it is crossed may again cross it specially to another banker, his agent, for collection:

Payment of
cheque
crossed
generally.

126. Where a cheque is crossed generally, the banker on whom it is drawn shall not pay it otherwise than to a banker.

Payment of
cheque
crossed
specially.

Where a cheque is crossed specially, the banker on whom it is drawn shall not pay it otherwise than to the banker to whom it is crossed, or his agent for collection.

Payment of
cheque cross-
ed specially
more than
once.

127. Where a cheque is crossed specially to more than one banker, except when crossed to an agent for the purpose of collection, the banker on whom it is drawn shall refuse payment thereof.

Payment in
due course of
crossed
cheque.

128. Where the banker on whom a crossed cheque is drawn has paid the same in due course, the banker paying the cheque, and (in case such cheque has come to the hands of the payee) the drawer thereof, shall respectively be entitled to the same rights, and be placed in the same position in all respects, as they would respectively be entitled to and placed in if the amount of the cheque had been paid to and received by the true owner thereof.

Payment of
crossed
cheque out of
due course.

129. Any banker paying a cheque crossed generally otherwise than to a banker, or a cheque crossed specially otherwise than to the banker to whom the same is crossed, or his agent for collection, being a banker, shall be liable to the true owner of the cheque for any loss he may sustain owing to the cheque having been so paid.

Cheque bear-
ing "not
negotiable."

130. A person taking a cheque crossed generally or specially, bearing in either case the words "not negotiable," shall not have, and shall not be capable

of

(Chapter XIV.—Of Crossed Cheques.—Sec. 131.
 Chapter XV.—Of Bills in Sets.—Secs. 132-133.
 Chapter XVI.—Of International Law.—Sec.
 134.)

of giving a better title to the cheque than that which the person from whom he took it had.

131. A banker who has in good faith and without negligence received payment for a customer of a cheque crossed generally or specially to himself shall not, in case the title to the cheque proves defective, incur any liability to the true owner of the cheque by reason only of having received such payment.

Non-liability of banker receiving payment of cheque.

CHAPTER XV.

OF BILLS IN SETS.

132. Bills of exchange may be drawn in parts, each part being numbered and containing a provision that it shall continue payable only so long as the others remain unpaid. All the parts together make a set; but the whole set constitutes only one bill, and is extinguished when one of the parts, if a separate bill, would be extinguished.

Set of bills.

Exception.—When a person accepts or indorses different parts of the bill in favour of different persons, he and the subsequent indorsers of each part are liable on such part as if it were a separate bill.

133. As between holders in due course of different parts of the same set he who first acquired title to his part is entitled to the other parts and the money represented by the bill.

Holder of first acquired part entitled to all.

CHAPTER XVI.

OF INTERNATIONAL LAW.

134. In the absence of a contract to the contrary, the liability of the maker or drawer of a foreign promissory note, bill of exchange or cheque is regulated in

Law governing liability of maker, acceptor or

all

(Chapter XVI.—Of International Law.—Secs. 135-137.)

indorser of
foreign
instrument.

all essential matters by the law of the place where he made the instrument, and the respective liabilities of the acceptor and indorser by the law of the place where the instrument is made payable.

Illustration.

A bill of exchange was drawn by A in California, where the rate of interest is 25 per cent., and accepted by B, payable in Washington, where the rate of interest is 6 per cent. The bill is indorsed in British India, and is dishonoured. An action on the bill is brought against B in British India. He is liable to pay interest at the rate of 6 per cent. only; but, if A is charged as drawer, A is liable to pay interest at the rate of 25 per cent.

Law of place
of payment
governs dis-
honour.

135. Where a promissory note, bill of exchange or cheque is made payable in a different place from that in which it is made or indorsed, the law of the place where it is made payable determines what constitutes dishonour and what notice of dishonour is sufficient.

Illustration.

A bill of exchange drawn and indorsed in British India, but accepted payable in France, is dishonoured. The indorsee causes it to be protested for such dishonour, and gives notice thereof in accordance with the law of France, though not in accordance with the rules herein contained in respect of bills which are not foreign. The notice is sufficient.

Instrument
made, etc.,
out of British
India, but in
accordance
with its law.

136. If a negotiable instrument is made, drawn, accepted or indorsed out of British India, but in accordance with the law of British India, the circumstance that any agreement evidenced by such instrument is invalid according to the law of the country wherein it was entered into does not invalidate any subsequent acceptance or indorsement made thereon in British India.

Presumption
as to foreign
law.

137. The law of any foreign country regarding promissory notes, bills of exchange and cheques shall be presumed to be the same as that of British India, unless and until the contrary is proved.

CHAPTER XVII.

(Chapter XVII.—Notaries Public.—Secs. 138-139.)

CHAPTER XVII.

NOTARIES PUBLIC.

138. The Governor General in Council may, from time to time, by notification in the official Gazette, appoint any person, by name or by virtue of his office, to be a notary public under this Act and to exercise his functions as such within any local area, and may by like notification, remove from office any notary public appointed under this Act. Power to appoint notaries public.

139. ² The Governor General in Council may, from time to time, by notification in the official Gazette, make rules consistent with this Act for the guidance and control of notaries public appointed under this Act, and may, by such rules (among other matters), fix the fees payable to such notaries. Power to make rules for notaries public.

SCHEDULE.

[*Enactments repealed.*]

Repealed by the Repealing and Amending Act, 1891 (XII of 1891).

¹ Ch. XVII was inserted by the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1885 (II of 1885), s. 10.

² For rules under this section see Notification No. 1433, dated 30th September, 1886, *Gazette of India*, 1886, Pt. I, p. 548. On the extension of the Act to Upper Burma, similar rules were framed with respect to this Province—see Notification No. 489, dated 11th May, 1894; *Burma Gazette*, Pt. II, p. 109, printed Burma Rules Manual, Ed. 1897, p. 81.